

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 42, NO. 2
MARCH 1987

52 East 41 Street
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 679-9650

Up-and-Coming

Tuesday, March 24, 5:30 p.m.—A Marilyn Monroe Evening with George Barris. Bogert Room. (see story below)

Wednesday, April 22—OPC Annual Awards Dinner. Art Buchwald and Lesley Stahl headline the evening. Grand Hyatt Hotel. (see lead story for details)

Members Free, Guests \$5, Cash bar, all functions except Annual Awards Dinner. Reservations required. Reserve with Mary Novick 679-9650.

MARILYN MONROE— A Last Look



Marilyn and George on her last birthday, June 1962

Marilyn Monroe will be the subject of an OPC Speaker's Night on Tuesday, March 24. The speaker will be photo-journalist **George Barris**, co-author with writer Gloria Steinem of the best-selling new book *Marilyn: Norma Jeane*.

Barris, a veteran OPC member, was collaborating with the film star on an autobiographical book at the time of her death in 1962. He had actually begun his interviews with her and taken many new photographs. The pictures, many never previously published, make up the book

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OPC Annual Dinner

Lesley Stahl and Art Buchwald Headline Awards Program

Lesley Stahl, the CBS News National Correspondent, has joined Art Buchwald on the program of the Overseas Press Club Awards Dinner. She will present the awards to a score of journalists whose work the OPC has judged as outstanding at the annual event which takes place on Wednesday, April 22, at the Grand Hyatt in New York.

Every year, the Club honors outstanding achievements in various categories of broadcast, print and photographic journalism at its spring dinner. **Mort Frank** heads the Awards Committee.

This year's program will digress from the norm on at least two counts: For the first time in Club history, the President's Award, a special citation given for unusual service to the cause of free journalism, will be given to a publication, the *International Herald Tribune*, which marks its 100th anniversary this year. A contingent from the paper, headed by publisher Lee W. Huebner, is expected at the festivities. And Buchwald, the popular satirist and political columnist, will make his first appearance before the OPC that evening as guest speaker.

The black-tie affair also will pay special tribute to the free speech and free press guarantees of the U.S. Constitution in this, its Bicentennial year.

The evening begins with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by dinner in the Empire State Ballroom at 7:15. Tickets are \$65 each for an OPC member and one guest;

SPEAKER'S-NIGHT NOTE

Mort Zuckerman, chairman and editor of *U.S. News and World Reports*, was scheduled to address the OPC on the Daniloff affair and the problems of reporting from the U.S.S.R. on Tuesday, March 24, but must postpone. New date to be announced.

tickets for all others are \$150 each.

Invitations will be mailed out to the OPC membership by the second week in March. Anyone else who is interested should contact Mary Novick at 212-679-9650.



Lesley Stahl

Freed WSJ Reporter Thanks OPC and Others for Support

Back in New York after his release from prison in Iran, Gerald Seib has thanked the OPC for its participation in the worldwide effort to obtain his release. Seib is the *Wall Street Journal* Middle East correspondent, most recently based in Cairo, who was arrested by plainclothes policemen in Tehran, accused of spying for Israel and held prisoner for four days of interrogation before he was freed.

"The Overseas Press Club should know that its message of concern sent to the authorities was important, and I know that it made a difference," Seib told a Club representative.

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David Schoenbrun Blasts TV News; Calls for Quality

by FRED FERGUSON

David Schoenbrun, the dean of TV network news correspondents, says TV news today is rapidly going downhill.

"And it may well take the nation with it," he told OPCers at Speakers Night on Feb. 17.

Schoenbrun, a longtime CBS correspondent and now a commentator on Independent Network News, was billed to speak on "What's Wrong with TV News?" The question, from his view, might be more appropriately put, "What isn't?"

"Sixty percent of the American people get all their news from television," he said. "That is why we are one of the least informed people in the world"—this from a man who was a pioneer in broadcast journalism.

"No news item gets more than one minute," he continued. "That's why Ed Murrow would never do nightly news, and that's what Walter Cronkite said was wrong with it—but this was after Walter retired, of course."

Throughout his talk, Schoenbrun attacked the networks' emphasis on headline summaries and their superficial reporting.

Schoenbrun noted, for example, that today's TV audience gets no reports from abroad on the way people live and work. "The networks are only interested in crisis reporting," he said. We don't learn about different peoples' civilizations."

"One of the finest correspondents abroad is Pierre Sallinger," Schoenbrun commented. "But he's little more than a fireman. They use him only to cover the hot story of the moment."

He assailed networks' cutbacks in news budgets and coverage.

"You know there is something wrong," Schoenbrun said, "when Capital Cities can chop \$20 million from its news budget and at the same time spend \$40 million on the TV miniseries *Amerika*—the most disgraceful production I've ever seen. They have 14 hours to tell you what would happen if the Russians took over the United States, but not one hour to tell you what's happening in Russia today."

"You know there is something wrong," he continued, "when they hire celebrities with little or no background in news at huge salaries at the same time they are firing people like Roger Mudd, a 28-year veteran, who is let go because his network

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Seib

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At a press conference at the Vista International Hotel in New York last month, Seib expressed his gratitude to all his journalistic colleagues, government officials and others who joined in the protest and appealed for his release.

Soon after Seib's arrest became known, the OPC sent this message to The Ministry of Islamic Guidance in Iran, the Iranian Ambassador to the UN in New York, and the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs in Bern:

"Overseas Press Club of America, representing 1,200 journalists in U.S. and around world, deeply concerned about unwarranted detention of respected journalist, Gerald Seib, Wall Street Journal correspondent.

"Seib, invited by Iranian Government, entered country legally on valid U.S. passport.

"We urge his unconditional and immediate release."

Respectfully,

*Herbert Kupferberg, President
Norman A. Schorr, Chairman,
Freedom of the Press Committee
Overseas Press Club of America*



Gerald Seib (center) at news conference

Gerald Seib joined the *Wall Street Journal* Dallas bureau in 1978 following graduation from the University of Kansas. In the spring of 1980, he was transferred to Washington, where he covered the Pentagon and the State Department. In January 1985, he and his wife, fellow *Wall Street Journal* reporter Barbara Rosewicz, were transferred to Cairo to cover the Middle East.

Our raw copy deadline

Material for the bulletin must be received in the OPC Office by the 14th of the month preceding publication.

Who's doing what, when, where and, if there's space, why

by RALPH D. GARDNER

OPC'er **Herb Silverman** is branching out from travel writing. The April issue of *ARTnews* carries his guide to America's leading art museums. The current *Wine Spectator* features Herb's article on the secrets of aging malt scotch whiskey in Spanish sherry casks. [Editor's note: How times change! My grandpa—who turned out some heady brew—ran for the hills after revenooers found his casks!]

Reuters correspondent **William O'Shea** sends us—along with his 1987 membership dues—news that he has been reassigned from the Canada beat to be the general manager for Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Burma and Brunei. His new address is: Reuters, 50 Raffles Place 17-01, Shell Tower, Singapore 0104. Hey, Bill—how about an occasional newsletter from your new territory?

Member **Tom Mechling**, *Washington Watch* and Gannett Newspapers, recently back from a China-Philippines press tour which, he tells us, included twenty members of the OPC, National Press Club and San Francisco Press Club. On the return trip, Tom touched bases in Vietnam, Karachi, Rome and London.

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Dateline

Articles are rolling in for *Dateline*, the OPC magazine to be distributed at the Awards Dinner April 22, as well as to political and journalistic leaders worldwide. The theme of the magazine is the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution's guarantees of free speech and a free press, and contributors whose copy has already been received include Ronald Reagan, Elie Wiesel, Nicholas Daniloff and many others. *Dateline* is being published by *Parade* magazine.

Larry Smith, managing editor of *Parade*, who is *Dateline's* editor and publisher, reports there still is time—but not much—for advertisers to take space in this issue, which promises to be one of *Dateline's* most exciting and most widely distributed. Club members who are associated with publications, corporations and others with media interest, are urged to do all they can to see that their organizations are well represented in *Dateline's* ad pages.

Schoenbrun

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says it can't find anything for him to do. The problem is that network news is no longer run by newsmen," he said.

"Now we have accountants making the decisions with absolutely no background or understanding of the news business...people from Loew's and General Electric. These people know nothing and care less.

"These are product people. They are only interested in money," Schoenbrun said. "Well I don't believe news is a product that we're selling. News is the license that networks must pay to broadcast all the rest of their programming."

Schoenbrun said there were many fine network television newspeople still—"I'd trust my fellow TV reporters and newsmen more than I trust the people they are reporting on," he said.

"Some say network news will be dead in 10 years, and that individual stations will all be doing their own thing," he said. I'm more optimistic than that. My hope is that the networks will lose enough audience to independents like INN, public TV and cable that they will have to rethink what they are doing.

"They had better," he warned.

"Because without news professionals, you go down in ignorance and will end up being occupied by the Soviet Union."

Champagne on-the-House for OPCers Visiting France

When Thierry Taittinger, Press Liaison for Concorde Hotels, read in the *OPC Bulletin* of member **C. Haynes Thompson's** recent stay at the Ambassador Concorde in Paris, and of his warm recollections of days when the Ambassador was home to many American correspondents, Taittinger came up with a first-class idea to delight all OPCers. It is simply this:

Members staying at any of twelve Concorde Hotels in France will—on their arrival—be welcomed with a bottle of Taittinger Champagne in their room.

In Paris these are the Hotel de Crillon, Concorde LaFayette, Hotel du Louvre, Ambassador Concorde, Hotel Lutetia and the Concorde St. Lazare. Elsewhere in France, these include the Hotel Martinez, in Cannes, and Hotel de la Reine—a sixty room chateau—at Nancy.

To make sure your champagne is properly chilled on arrival—as well as for information on travel, hotels and restaurants—contact Thierry Taittinger at T.T.C. Conseil, 105 Avenue Raymond Poincare, Paris 75116; telephone: (01) 4501-2575. In New York, phone Victoire Taittinger-Gardner at (212) 753-8151.

Love OPC-Style

Behind every great story, there's a great reporter. Right? Well, behind every great club, there's a great manager. That said, we send hearty congratulations and thanks to **Mary Novick**, manager of the OPC, for 15 years of service to the club.

"I started on Feb. 14, 1972—Valentine's Day!" says Novick. "And it's been a real love affair ever since!"

This ardent revelation prompted OPC President **Herb Kupferberg** to respond: "I'm glad Mary says she loves the club, for the club certainly loves her. Since I've become president, I've learned what every past president knows—Mary is the perfect manager. I hope she continues for another 15 years—at least!" (Editor's Note: This is the first time in club history that no one asked to verify a quote.)

In addition to her OPC duties, Novick has four grown sons and five grandchildren. She lives in Queens, N.Y.



Fran Carpentier

Not Enough Indians

Fran Carpentier, articles editor of *Parade* magazine, has been named co-editor of the *OPC Bulletin*, joining **Fred Ferguson**. Fran, who became a member of the Club last year, will have charge of the production of the Bulletin every month, and will work closely with contributors. News items intended for the Bulletin should be sent to her at the OPC offices.

Display Ads for OPC Bulletin

The OPC Bulletin will accept a limited number of display advertisements. Persons interested should contact the OPC office for our display ad schedule.

Who's doing what?

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Would-be backstage parents should treat their stage-struck kids to a copy of OPCer **Millicent Brower's** latest book, *Young Performers: On the Stage, in Film and on TV*. It has already tallied sales of several thousand copies. Published by the Julian Messner division of Simon & Schuster, it's a hardback library edition for readers ten years old and up. It contains how-they-became-stars interviews with eight successful young performers, including Matthew Broderick and Jonathan Silverman. Millicent's first novel, *Ingenue*, a comedy-drama about an actress in summer stock, has been published in England under the title *Make Me A Star*. It is currently being cast for release as a two-hour TV film.

There's good news for PR people in OPCer **Denny Griswold's** 42nd Annual Forecast of what the year ahead holds. Denny, founder and editor of *Public Relations News*, reports (issues dated January 19th and 26th) that the search will be keen for senior publicrelations executives, with salaries rising above \$200,000 in many cases. The expected competition for experienced personnel will be a boon for post-forty-year-olds who will find employers in need of proven skills.

OPCer **Cornell Capa**, Director of the International Center of Photography, announces an exhibit celebrating the first ten years of Contact Press Images. Among photographers whose works are shown are OPC Award-Winners David Burnett and Dilip Mehta. The exhibit continues through April 18th.

Member **Leonard Shapiro**, Deputy Sports Editor of the *Washington Post*, has announced that he has decided against accepting the job as Sports Editor for United Press International because of personal reasons. Shapiro, 39, said his wife is expecting their first baby soon and the job would have carried heavy travel responsibilities.

UPI President Milton Benjamin said UPI will continue its search for a top quality sports editor to succeed David Tucker, who has been promoted to the post of Assistant Managing Editor for News.

Changing assignments? A new book in the works? Have you time for free-lance or stringer coverage? Want your fellow OPCers to look you up when in your area? Send us a note today. We'll spread the word.



(l to r): Wallo, Lovewell, Lundeen and Shaw
in front of Vineyard Gazette office

On View: Martha's Vineyard

A collection of landscapes and portraits by four photographers on the *Vineyard Gazette* in Martha's Vineyard, Mass., is on display in the first-floor exhibition gallery of the OPC through March 27.

When they are not working behind the camera for the *Vineyard Gazette*, three of the photographers spend the rest of their time getting the award-winning weekly newspaper out: Mark Lovewell is a staff reporter, Alison Shaw is the director of graphics and design, and M.C. Wallo is the production manager. Carol Lundeen does freelance advertising and family-portrait photography and is also a chef.

Producer Needs OPC Help

Alexis Muellner of Interlock Media Associates has requested the OPC's help in the production of "Vietnam: Radio First Termer," a public radio series investigating the role of radio that originated in Vietnam.

Muellner needs information, recordings and contacts from Vietnam correspondents, veterans, as well as those who teach about Vietnam.

"We want to analyze what correspondents and GI's heard and what they and the U.S. government broadcast," Muellner says. Contact him at Interlock Media Associates, P.O. Box 619, Harvard Square Station, Cambridge, Mass. 02238; 617-491-3111. Interlock is a non-profit media collaborative specializing in radio, film and television documentaries that focus on environmental and historical issues and human rights concerns.

Monroe

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along with Steinem's text, which is based largely on Barris' notes.

Barris, who has operated mainly in Paris in recent years, will bring a fresh perspective to the Monroe story in his talk. Several copies of the book will be given as door prizes through the courtesy of the publisher, Henry Holt. The Monroe program begins at 5:30 p.m.

All your news that fits

Please keep telling us what you're doing. OPCers' activities make for a better OPC Bulletin. We're trying to keep up with the items you've been sending. We'll admit it's not quite original but our motto is, "All your news that fits."

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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NEW APPLICATIONS

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Stephen Govoni—Executive Editor, Financial World

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Sponsors: *H. L. Stevenson, Fred Ferguson*

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OPC Bulletin accepts classified ads in what may be best media influentials buy. \$5 minimum for up to three lines, \$1.75 for each line thereafter. 46 characters per line. Check must accompany typed copy submitted to OPC by 14th of month preceding publication.

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